

1 What is claimed is:

2 1. A method for providing contextual information to a user of a windows-
3 based computer environment, said method comprising:

4
5 opening a window having a user interface; and

6
7 manipulating a context control feature of the user interface to determine
8 a first context of the window corresponding to at least a first perspective of one
9 or more perspectives for viewing and manipulating one or more objects, with
10 each object of the one or more objects having one or more object capabilities
11 within the window,

12
13 wherein the first perspective presents a filtered view of at least one of
14 the one or more object capabilities of the one or more objects corresponding to
15 the first perspective.

16
17 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of manipulating the context
18 control feature is not performed and the first context of the window is set as a
19 default by an application of the window.

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21 3. The method of claim 1, wherein manipulating the context control feature
22 comprises changing a context tab of the user interface.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein manipulating the context control feature
2 comprises selecting a context identifier from a context list.

3
4 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the first context of the window is a view
5 of a set of objects.

6
7 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the first context of the window is a set of
8 tasks.

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10 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising manipulating the context
11 control feature to determine a second context of the window corresponding to
12 a second perspective for viewing the one or more objects within the window.

13
14 8. The method of claim 7, wherein information shared by the first context
15 and the second context is maintained by the second context when the context
16 control feature is manipulated to determine the second context.

17
18 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the first context of the window
19 corresponding to the first perspective is a first view of a set of objects and the
20 second context of the window corresponding to the second perspective is a
21 second view of the set of objects.

1 10. The method of claim 7, wherein the first context of the window is a view
2 of a first set of objects and the second context of the window is a view of a
3 second set of objects.

4
5 11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

6 the first perspective making available for viewing one or more object
7 capabilities of the one or more objects corresponding to a second perspective.

8
9 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one of the one or more
10 object capabilities corresponding to the first perspective of the filtered view are
11 more visible to a viewer of the user interface than are the one or more object
12 capabilities corresponding to the second perspective.

13
14 13. The method of claim 11, wherein the one or more object capabilities
15 corresponding to the second perspective are hidden from view in the user
16 interface of the first perspective unless a manipulation of the user interface of
17 the first perspective is performed to display the one or more object capabilities
18 corresponding to the second perspective.

19
20 14. A computer-readable medium having a computer program for filtering
21 information to provide contextual information about a perspective of objects to
22 a user of a windows-based computer environment, said computer program
23 comprising:

1
2 instructions for opening a window having a user interface; and

3
4 instructions for manipulating a context control feature of the user
5 interface to determine a first context of the window corresponding to at least a
6 first perspective of one or more perspectives for viewing and manipulating one
7 or more objects, with each object of the one or more objects having one or
8 more object capabilities within the window,

9
10 wherein the first perspective presents a filtered view of at least one of
11 the one or more object capabilities of the one or more objects corresponding to
12 the first perspective.

13
14 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the instructions for manipulating the
15 context control feature are performed by default by the computer program.

16
17 16. The medium of claim 14, wherein instructions for manipulating the
18 context control feature comprises instructions for changing a context tab of the
19 user interface.

20
21 17. The medium of claim 14, wherein manipulating the context control
22 feature comprises instructions for selecting a context identifier from a context
23 list.

1
2 18. The medium of claim 14, wherein the first context of the window is a
3 view of a set of objects.
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5 19. The medium of claim 14, wherein the first context of the window is a set
6 of tasks.
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8 20. The medium of claim 14, further comprising instructions for manipulating
9 the context control feature to determine a second context of the window
10 corresponding to a second perspective for viewing the one or more objects
11 within the window.
12

13 21. The medium of claim 20, wherein information shared by the first context
14 and the second context is maintained by the second context when the context
15 control feature is manipulated to determine the second context.
16

17 22. The medium of claim 20, wherein the first context of the window
18 corresponding to the first perspective is a first view of a set of objects and the
19 second context of the window corresponding to the second perspective is a
20 second view of the set of objects.
21

1 23. The medium of claim 20, wherein the first context of the window is a
2 view of a first set of objects and the second context of the window is a view of
3 a second set of objects.

4
5 24. The method of claim 14, further comprising:
6 the first perspective making available for viewing one or more object
7 capabilities of the one or more objects corresponding to a second perspective.

8
9 25. The method of claim 24, wherein the at least one of the one or more
10 object capabilities corresponding to the first perspective of the filtered view are
11 more visible to a viewer of the user interface than are the one or more object
12 capabilities corresponding to the second perspective.

13
14 26. The method of claim 24, wherein the one or more object capabilities
15 corresponding to the second perspective are hidden from view in the user
16 interface of the first perspective unless a manipulation of the user interface of
17 the first perspective is performed to display the one or more object capabilities
18 corresponding to the second perspective.

19
20 27. A user interface of a window that provides contextual information to a
21 user of a windows-based computer environment, comprising:
22

1 a context control feature of the user interface that has one or more
2 available contexts operable to present one or more corresponding
3 perspectives within the window; and

4
5 a content pane;

6
7 wherein manipulating the context control feature of the user interface
8 determines a context of the window from the one or more available contexts
9 corresponding to at least a first perspective of the one or more perspectives for
10 viewing and manipulating a plurality of objects, with each object of the plurality
11 of objects having one or more object capabilities, that is illustrated in the
12 content pane of the user interface of the window and

13
14 wherein the first perspective presents a filtered view of at least one of
15 the one or more object capabilities of the one or more objects corresponding to
16 the first perspective.

17
18 28. The user interface of claim 27, wherein the context is not determined by
19 manipulating the context control feature of the user interface and the context is
20 set as a default by an application of the window.

21
22 29. The user interface of claim 27, wherein the context control feature is a
23 context list box that has the one or more available contexts in a context list.

1
2 30. The user interface of claim 27, wherein the context control feature is a
3 context tab.

4
5 31. The user interface of claim 27, wherein the user interface further
6 comprises a scoping pane that provides a plurality of views of the context.

7
8 32. The user interface of claim 31, wherein the user interface further
9 comprises:

10
11 a menu bar; and

12
13 one or more static toolbars,

14
15 wherein one or more menus of the menu bar, one or more toolbar
16 buttons of the one or more static toolbars, and the plurality of views of the
17 scoping pane are defined by the context of the window.

18
19 33. The user interface of claim 27, wherein the user interface further
20 comprises:

21
22 a menu bar; and
23

1 one or more static toolbars,

2
3 wherein one or more menus of the menu bar and one or more toolbar
4 buttons of the one or more static toolbars are defined by the context of the
5 window.

6
7 34. The user interface of claim 27, wherein the context of the window is a
8 view of a set of objects.

9
10 35. The user interface of claim 27, wherein the context of the window is a
11 set of tasks.

12
13 36. The user interface of claim 27, wherein the context control feature is
14 manipulated to determine a subsequent context that is different from the
15 context, wherein the subsequent context corresponds to a subsequent
16 perspective of the plurality of perspectives that is different from the perspective
17 to which the context corresponds.

18
19 37. The user interface of claim 36, wherein information shared by the
20 context and the subsequent context is maintained by the subsequent context
21 when the context control feature is manipulated to determine the subsequent
22 context.

1 38. The user interface of claim 36, wherein the perspective to which the
2 context of the window corresponds is a view of a set of objects and the
3 subsequent perspective to which the subsequent context of the window
4 corresponds is a subsequent view of the set of objects.

5
6 39. The user interface of claim 36, wherein the context of the window is a
7 view of a first set of objects and the subsequent context of the window is a
8 view of a second set of objects.

9
10 40. The user interface of claim 36, wherein the user interface further
11 comprises:

12
13 a menu bar; and

14
15 one or more static toolbars,

16
17 wherein when the context control feature is manipulated to determine
18 the subsequent context one or more menus of the menu bar and one or more
19 toolbar buttons of the one or more static toolbars are defined by the
20 subsequent context of the window.

21
22 41. The user interface of claim 27, further comprising:

1 the first perspective making available for viewing one or more object
2 capabilities of the one or more objects corresponding to a second perspective.

3
4 42. The user interface of claim 41, wherein the at least one of the one or
5 more object capabilities corresponding to the first perspective of the filtered
6 view are more visible to a viewer of the user interface than are the one or more
7 object capabilities corresponding to the second perspective.

8
9 43. The method of claim 41, wherein the one or more object capabilities
10 corresponding to the second perspective are hidden from view in the user
11 interface of the first perspective unless a manipulation of the user interface of
12 the first perspective is performed to display the one or more object capabilities
13 corresponding to the second perspective.
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